The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Liberty is not negation. It is a substantive, tangible reality. —Garfield.

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MOSCOW TELLS COMMUNISTS HOW TO CONTROL AMERICA'S UNIONS

The executive committee of the Communist International, at Moscow, have prepared a special resolution on the best tactic to apply to American trade unions.

Some trade unionists are prone to believe that the Communists have abandoned their efforts to control the unions, and that warnings against Communists is a cry of "Wolf." The Communists encourage this belief while they continue their boring policy.

The resolution orders Communists to cease setting up "progressive" groups in trade unions. This has proven disastrous in the case of miners, fur workers and cloak makers, and the Russian Communists call on their American unit not to repeat this mistake. The new plan is not to have a definite organization within the union, as this attracts attention.

The resolution reads:

"The comrades active and influential in the trade unions must be drawn more into active party work than heretofore and especially into the work of the leading committees, thus achieving simultaneously the unification of the leadership of the trade union work by the party. The entire party membership must regard the work of the trade unions as the most important task of the party."

* * * The fate of all labor organizations in every country depends primarily upon the activities of a minute minority of clear-sighted enthusiastic militants scattered throughout the great organized masses of sluggish workers. These live spirits are the natural head of the working class, the driving force of the labor movement. They are the only ones who really understand what the labor struggle means."

This call to center every effort on controlling the unions speaks for itself.

The especial need, the resolution continues, is to develop a "broad left wing" in the unions. The Trade Union Educational League, a Communist wing, must not maintain a rigid organization, but must adjust itself to conditions. In other words, it must not show its teeth unless conditions justify this policy.

"All measures must be taken," it is stated, "to place leadership in the hands of Communists and of other reliable left workers."

The Communist tactic is plain. They would make revolutionists of unionists, who are disciplined to obey orders. This purpose was stated with exceptional clearness in the March, 1922, issue of Labor Herald, by W. Z. Foster in explaining the functions of the Trade Union Educational League:

"* * * to carry every effort on concentrated lines through the left wing of the reactionary unions, and to develop a powerful left wing in the A. F. of L. unions, which will be able to take the leadership of the masses away from the present reactionary bureaucracy."

HAS LEAGUE OF NATIONS LOST LEADING FRIEND?

Washington, Aug. 13.—Has Hon. John H. Clarke, former associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, abandoned faith in the League of Nations?

He resigned from the Supreme Court to urge this cause, and is now quoted by the Associated Press as making this statement at a public forum held by the University of Virginia at Charlottesville:

"Former Justice John H. Clarke today visioned world peace achieved by many international alliances, instead of a single universal treaty like the League of Nations. Mr. Clarke spoke on 'The Present Status of the League of Nations,' and said it had been found impossible to formulate a treaty of world-wide scope, suitable to all nations, leading to the development of separate treaties like the Locarno pact, which ultimately will serve to establish world peace through individual agreements between nations."

ANTI-UNION BILL IS PASSED BY BRITISH UPPER HOUSE

London, England, Aug. 13.—The House of Lords passed the anti-trade union bill by a vote of 86 to 17. The bill has been approved by the House of Commons, but it will revert back to that body because of an amendment made by the lords.

The bill destroys practically every right that the British trade unionists have secured in the last century. It also weakens the Labor party by compelling every worker who would pay the small Labor party assessment to state in writing to the proper government official that he favors such action. Under the present law a trade unionist is exempt if he notifies the official. Approximately but 100,000 unionists out of more than 4,000,000 have taken advantage of the law.

Under the new bill if a union of 100 members voted unanimously to pay the levy, each one of them must make an additional statement in writing and mail same to the government official.

On the industrial field, workers will be subject to stringent limitations. All strikes that "tend" to coerce the government or a community can be enjoined by a court at the request of the attorney general.

Discussion on this clause showed wide differences of opinion between England's most skilled lawyers.

Lord Gorell lead the fight against the bill in the House of Lords. He said no ringmaster with a crack of his whip or a mere nod of his head has sent his team so smartly one way and then the other as those who had forced this legislation through.

The government, he said, was applying eighteenth century mind to twentieth century problems. Industry needed nothing so much as peace, but no one with any voice at the passage of this bill, except the extremists on both sides.

The time would come, he continued, when many of those who voted for the bill would admit in their heart of hearts that there never was a greater blunder perpetrated by any responsible government.

Lord Reading said the government had adopted the wrong course in introducing the bill before making any attempt at agreement or explanation before an independent commission and before it was proved that the general strike had rendered such a bill necessary. It was lamentable, he said, that when the country stood so much in need of industrial peace this legislation—which would only embitter relations—should have been introduced by the government. He predicted that interpretation of the clauses of the bill, which caused wide differences of opinion between the two houses, would bring the same turmoil in the courts.

Viscount Haldane said the bill sought to repeal common law and it restricted liberty.

LAUNDRY WORKERS GAIN

West Frankfort, Ill., Aug. 13.—An eight-hour day and a week's minimum has been won by laundry workers.

LABOR'S FIGHT AGAINST GAG RECALLED BY P. O. WORKERS

Washington, Aug. 13.—Locals of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks will observe the fifteenth anniversary of the enactment of the anti-gag law on August 24. This legislation, known as the Lloyd-La Follette bill, was passed on August 24, 1912.

"This act," said Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the post office clerks' federation, "is the Magna Charta of the postal employes, as it restored their fundamental right of direct petition to Congress." The gag was issued by President Roosevelt:

"All officers and employes of the United States of every description, serving in or under any of the executive departments, and whether so serving in or out of Washington, are hereby forbidden, either directly or indirectly, individually or through associations, to solicit an increase of pay or to influence or to attempt to influence in their interest any other legislation whatever, either before Congress or its committees, or in any way, save through the heads of the departments in or under which they serve, on penalty of dismissal from the Government service."

The gag raised a whirlwind of opposition in trade union circles, and the American Federation of Labor entered wholeheartedly into the fight to regain constitutional rights to citizens who happen to be employed by the Government.

The trade unionists' spirit was expressed by President Gompers at the Atlanta convention: "We intend to see to it that these constitutional rights shall not be transgressed or invaded by whosoever occupies the White House or holds a position as a cabinet officer."

HOW ABOUT "NATURAL LAW?"

Trade unionists hear much about the natural law of supply and demand and the need to protect this law against "agitators who would monopolize the labor market."

Present financial conditions, however, is causing plain talk about bankers. They even hint that this natural law is being violated by its protectors.

The nation's banking is under control of the Federal Reserve System, created by Congress, with the approval of bankers.

Here is what the latest news service, issued by the financial house of Spencer Trask & Co., New York, says:

"We have previously pointed out that the operation of our banking system has, in effect, led to what amounts to artificial hoarding of gold without allowing this money to flow freely into natural channels. This has been proving an obstacle to the more rapid recovery of Europe and perhaps our banking authorities feel that the time has now come to let down the bars and to allow the more unrestricted flow of credit to bring about, through the natural course of trade relations, an improved situation in foreign countries."

If the natural course of trade relations are permitted, world conditions will improve, "which eventually means a more permanent prosperity for this nation as well," this news service says.

WHEN WILL COAL OWNERS LEARN?

When will American coal owners profit by the experience of British coal owners?

The former is attempting to smash the Mine Workers' Union, lower wages and lengthen hours, as did the British coal owners last year. The latter drove the miners back to the pits, and then flooded European markets with their low-cost commodity.

France checked this coal deluge by placing an embargo on the British product, and now a correspondent from Cardiff, Wales, writing to Saward's Coal Journal, spokesman for American coal owners, says: "British coal owners are just as badly off as they were before."

American coal owners are asking union employes to base rates on non-union standards—if such a thing exists. The unionists show that the unorganized fields will immediately meet this competition with another cut. One does not have to be a prophet to predict the outcome of this disastrous policy in an industry that demands cooperation of all parties if it is to be rescued from disaster.

LAWS MADE BY MEN HAVE THEIR LIMIT

San Francisco, Aug. 13.—"A weakness of democracy is to apply man-made laws to things," said Prof. J. Duncan Spaeth of Princeton University, in an address to the Commonwealth Club.

"Democratic peoples," he said, "have a sentimental tendency to apply the laws of men to things. They forget that the laws of things—of nature—are immutable. People try to legislate goodness into their fellows.

"On the other hand, attempts made by employers to apply the law of things to men result only in strikes and trouble. True liberalism consists in recognizing both these laws and applying them where they belong."

NON-UNION GARMENTS ENDANGER INDUSTRY

New York, Aug. 13.—Cloak manufacturers are alarmed at the results of their low-grade mass production that is swamping this market. These business men now urge that quality be the dominant factor. Present policies have brought numberless petty non-union shops into existence. These are beyond the union's control and low standards and unsanitary work conditions are increasing.

"The non-union shop, the chief source of cheap, poorly made up merchandise in this market is a menace," says Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

"The economy of pennies that jobbers and manufacturers sought to introduce is false economy. The sooner this inferior, non-union production is done away with the better for every responsible factor in the industry. To bring about uniformity of labor terms in all shops and drive out self-destroying competition, the union is entering upon an organizing campaign. Every constructive element in the industry should wish the union success."

TORIES STILL ALERT TO CONTROL BRITAIN

London, England, Aug. 13.—The Tory party, now in control of the British government, has not abandoned its effort to bulwark itself by changing the House of Lords.

Trade unionists are calling attention to recent declarations by Premier Baldwin and other government officials that the plan that was rejected was offered "for criticism and ventilation." Lord Birkenhead, a leading Tory, has stated that it is the intention of the government to carry the bill into law in the lifetime of the present Parliament.

It is now agreed that the defeat of the bill simply means that the battered Conservative army has retired in confusion to remobilize its forces and reconsider its plan of campaign. As soon as the new objection and the new tactics have been decided upon, the attack on the Constitution will again be launched.

The Tories would centralize all power in the House of Lords by reducing the power of the House of Commons to control appropriations and to pass legislation despite opposition of the Lords.

They hope that the anti-trade union bill will demoralize the forces of labor on the economic and political field, and that changes in the House of Lords will entrench the Conservatives for any disasters that may happen at the 1929 general election.

PRESENT WAGE RATES TRACED TO UNIONISM

Washington, Aug. 13.—Employers who favor welfare work and the company "union" are not justified in claiming credit for initiating the American high-wage policy, writes William Green, editor of American Federationist, current issue.

"Those who know American business executives," says Mr. Green, "may well ask these questions:

"If there had been no trade unions, would American industries be paying the present high-wage rates?

"If there had been no trade unions, would industries have devised employe representation plans?

"If there had been no trade unions, would companies have established employe stock ownership plans, old-age pensions, group insurance, etc.?

"The union remains as before the era of industrial welfare, the one agency with authority and competence to set standards for wage earners. It is the only agency free enough to give management the benefit of work experience that management needs in order to know production progress."

OWNERS REFUSE PARLEY TO ADJUST WAGE ISSUE

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 13.—Coal owners rejected Governor Donahey's invitation that they meet with employes to discuss wage differences in the Central Competitive Field.

John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, notified the Ohio governor of the miners' "unqualified acceptance." The competitive field consists of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania. Rates in this area is the base of wages in other fields. At the conference in Miami, last spring, a wage agreement failed because the coal owners insisted that rates be based on the non-union fields of Kentucky and West Virginia. The strike has been on since April 1.

FIREMEN WILL ARBITRATE

Chicago, Aug. 13.—Locomotive firemen and helpers on 55 Western roads will arbitrate their demand for a wage increase of $1 a day. More than 55,000 employes are involved. An agreement could not be reached by the Federal Board of Mediation. Under the new railroad act, both parties will resort to arbitration.

MERCY FOR TWO MEN IS URGED BY GREEN

Hendersonville, N. C., Aug. 13.—President Green of the A. F. of L. protested against radical outbursts throughout the country in favor of Sacco and Vanzetti, although he emphasized that there is grave doubts as to the guilt of the accused, who are charged with murdering a paymaster in South Braintree. In a telegram to Governor Fuller he appealed for executive clemency in behalf of the two men.

Mr. Green said that organized labor's insistence for a new trial is based upon the fact that all evidence and information in connection with the crime had not been presented.

"The American Federation of Labor," he said, "is pursuing the calm, rational course that should be pursued by the American people, but we insist that there is grave doubt and the accused should be given the benefit of the doubt."

The A. F. of L. executive attended the annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor.

JUBILEE CONVENTION OPENED BY PRINTERS

Indianapolis, Aug. 13.—With a record attendance of delegates and visitors, the golden jubilee convention of the International Typographical Union convened in this city. Addresses were made by President Green and Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L.; presidents of the printing trades, building trades and stereotypers' internationals and executives of other internationals whose headquarters are in this city.

CARPENTERS UNITE

Kansinger, B. C., Aug. 13.—Carpenters have organized and are chartered by the Brotherhood of Carpenters.

LET US HONOR LABOR DAY

Daniel J. Tobin, Treasurer, A. F. of L.

Do not let the first Monday in September drop back into just a day of amusement; keep it growing bigger in vision for the labor movement that has given so much to you. If you have neglected to put forth any effort last year, make up for it in 1927 and keep it in mind for the years to come.

Lives Lost On Excursion Boat; Every Safety Rule Is Ignored

Chicago, Aug. 13.—There is no control over vessels of the type of the excursion steamer Favorite, which recently sank here, said Victor Olander, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois Federation of Labor and an officer of the Lake Seamen's Union.

The Favorite disaster caused the death of 27 persons, mostly women and children. "The license necessary to operate one of these steamers, either as master or captain or chief engineer, is virtually meaningless," said Mr. Olander, who quoted from the motor boat law of 1910: "No examination shall be required as a condition of obtaining such a license."

In a letter to Oscar F. Nelson, member of the city council and president of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Mr. Olander suggests that the city council debar this type of boat from the municipal pier.

"A sense of duty compels me to insist that there is not an expert in or out of the Government service who does not know that such disasters are preventable. What really happened to the steamer Favorite was this: In a summer squall she listed so badly that with less than half the weight of human beings permitted on board under her Government license she filled and sank, drowning 27 persons, nearly all of them women and children, about half a mile off the beach, with the wind offshore and no sea. The mere statement of the fact proves the vessel was unseaworthy in relation to the number of persons allowed on board. The Government records credit the Favorite with a depth of only four feet four inches. On that shallow hull was built a huge superstructure carrying an upper deck, and on that upper deck there was allowed as many as 1,000 persons, and into it, providing they did not exceed 158, if the figures published in the press are correct.

"The United States Steamboat Inspection Service has authority to regulate the number of passengers and in that respect can, without additional legislation, do much to safeguard a repetition of such disasters."

GREEN'S LABOR TALK TO BE NATION WIDE

New York, Aug. 13.—The local Central Trades and Labor Council has arranged for a nation-wide radio talk on Labor Day by William Green, president of the A. F. of L. The broadcast station is WEAF, and the speech will be delivered between 7 and 8 p. m., but newspapers will announce the exact time. Other national stations throughout the country will tune in.

UNION LABEL DRIVE WILL COVER NATION

Washington, Aug. 13.—The Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. has arranged for a nation-wide label campaign from August 22 to September 10. This movement will be the most extensive yet launched by the department and will be conducted so that all national and international unions, State Federations of Labor, central bodies and local unions are benefited.

In a letter to trade unions, John J. Manning, secretary of the department, asks that each local appoint committees to aid the organizations in affiliation to the department are urged to prepare and distribute literature without delay, before the drive, or at any other time.

Local committees will make a survey of all business in their respective communities to ascertain the extent of union label goods of all descriptions. Firms employing members of the building and metal trades' unions and other various callings should also be visited in an effort to benefit these trades.

"Do not expect two or three persons to carry the whole burden of this campaign," said Secretary Manning. "Let each member of organized labor do something."

APPEAL TO GOVERNOR IN FACTORY DEATHS

Detroit, Aug. 13.—Organized labor will appeal to Governor Green to order an investigation of the disaster at the Bridge Manufacturing Company and compensation law and the surviving victims, who are burned and mutilated, will be paid $18 a week.

LET CHINESE ALONE, ADVICE TO POWERS

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 13.—British and Franco-Spanish have been the policy of western nations in China, said Dr. Harold S. Quigley of the University of Minnesota, who is discussing Chinese affairs at the Institute of Politics.

"Every winner so far picked has failed," said Dr. Quigley. "No leader could succeed permanently without loyal Chinese supporters and these he could not hold if it were discovered that he was in foreign pay. It is time these foreign states ceased to pick a winner."

LESS OIL PRODUCTION IS FAVORED BY STATE

Oklahoma City, Aug. 13.—The agreement of oil operators to limit production in the huge Seminole field is in operation. The curtailment will continue 60 days, but if the scheme works it is believed the time will be extended. It is planned to lessen the daily output from 50,000 to 75,000 barrels. This will stop the flow that has overrun the market and threatened to lower prices.

The plan was worked out by Ray M. C. Collins of this State, who was appointed oil czar at a meeting called in New York in May by officers of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey.

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has approved the plan, thus presenting the unusual spectacle of the State agreeing with producers to enforce an agreement to lessen production.

PUBLIC FUNDS WASTED

New York, Aug. 13.—More than $500,000,000 is wasted annually by local governments in this country, according to a survey made by the National Industrial Conference Board.

BOTTLE BLOWERS GAIN

Atlantic City, Aug. 13.—Wage increases of from 10 to 25 per cent were secured by the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association at a conference with the National Glass Manufacturers' Association. The minimum benefits 3,000 men. The workers asked for a 20 per cent increase and the employers insisted on a similar reduction. In the conference, however, the latter acknowledged that increased business justified wage advances. James Maloney, president of the Glass Bottle Blowers' Association, headed the workers' group.

MINERS HOLD MORALE; DEMAND LIVING WAGE

Indianapolis, Aug. 13.—"Self-confidence is another name for self-respect, and that, in large measure, accounts for the attitude of the membership of the United Mine Workers in their fight against wage reductions," says the United Mine Workers' Journal.

"No man can display self-respect on a $2.75-a-day wage. No man can show self-respect when he is at the mercy of an employer who can dictate what the wage worker shall eat, what he shall wear and how he shall educate his children—if at all.

"Yet a band of employers seek to do this very thing through the setting of a wage scale that spells degradation, loss of self-respect and independence."

TRYING UNIONS AS TRUST

New York, Aug. 13.—The Government is presenting testimony before Federal Judge Trieber to secure an injunction restraining organized stone cutters and other building trades unions from refusing to handle nonunion stone. The leading witness for the Government said he "did not know if his troubles would have been eliminated by the organization of his shop."

REASON FOR DICTATORS

Williamsport, Mass., Aug. 13.—Dictators exist only when the people are temporarily careless of liberty," said Prof. Henry R. Spencer of Ohio University at the Institute of Politics here.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

St. Louis, Aug. 13.—Newspaper printers raised wages $1.50 a week for one year. The new rate is $52.50 for day work and $57.50 for night work.

LAUNDRY DRIVERS WIN

Cincinnati, Aug. 13.—Laundry drivers, affiliated to the Brotherhood of Teamsters, secured a two-year agreement and raised wages $2 a week.

FAKE "EQUAL RIGHTS" DENOUNCED BY PRIEST

Rapid City, S. D., Aug. 13.—Rev. William Boyd, Catholic priest, has joined Western trade union women in their fight against the National Woman's Party plan to annul protective legislation for working women by securing an "equal rights" amendment to the Federal Constitution. The National Woman's Party called on the President at his summer home, near here.

"The hardest work that some of these feminists do," said the clergyman, "is to ride in the plush cushions of their limousines. You may well take note of the fact that none of the women who work for a living in the factories and stores, and who carry union labor cards, were present in the delegation that called on the President and pretended to be so much interested in the 'welfare of the working women.' It was because the women who do the real work know that the 'equal rights' movement would destroy the wage and labor laws that have been enacted for their protection."

FRUIT PEDDLERS UNITE

Detroit, Aug. 13.—This city of fivers, low wages and unemployed is becoming aesthetic and the city council has passed an ordinance that prohibits fruit peddlers from crying their wares. The peddlers concluded their only hope is in organization and 250 of them have affiliated to the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

WIN EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Gillespie, Ill., Aug. 13.—Auto mechanics have unionized all garages here and established the eight-hour day and a weekly minimum of $40.

CITY RAISES WAGES

Denver, Aug. 13.—Wage increases that range from $5 to $12 a month have been secured by machinists employed by the city and county.